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IN THE APPLICATION

OF

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FOR A

V-SHAPED RAZOR

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V-SHAPED RAZOR

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/412,022, filed September 20, 2002.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to manual shaving devices, and in particular to manual wet-shaving devices having handles and flexible blade housings.

2. DESCRIPTION OF RELATED ART

Manual wet-shaving devices are known in which one or more blades are mounted in a flexible, curved, or pivoting housing, cartridge, or blade head that allows the cutting edge to follow the contours of the surface being shaved. Convex and concave blades are frequently used in hospitals where surgical preparation requires shaving boney or angular parts of the body.

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Frequently, blade housings are pivotally attached to two forked supports that rise from the ends of elongate razor handles. However, none of these shaving systems is flexibly adjustable to either convex or concave configurations while being drawn across the skin during shaving. Individuals who, for convenience or fashion, shave sharply contoured areas, such as scalps and shins, are often frustrated by safety razors that shave only a narrow strip with each stroke and quickly become dull at their centers. Hence, there is a need for an inexpensive safety razor that flexes to match convex and concave contours of the body while in contact with the area being shaved.

The present invention provides a solution for this problem that is not described in the inventions and patents below.

U.S. Patent No. 5,333,383, issued to Frank A. Ferraro, describes a razor handle for supporting a flexible blade cartridge, the handle having two arms that extend from one end of an elongate handle and are pivotally attached to a blade cartridge. An additional member that extends from the handle below the cartridge is adjustable to force the blade into a convex form. U.S. Patent No. 5,855,071, issued to Domenic Vincent Apprille, Jr. et al., discloses a razor handle with two

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support arms extending from a support assembly, the arms being pivotally attached near the opposite ends of a blade cartridge. Neither of these devices permits both a concave and convex blade configuration.

U.S. Patent No. 6,161,287, issued to Swanson et al., describes a safety razor system including a blade housing with a handle pivotally attached. Like the '071 patent to Aprille et al., Swanson describes a shaving system with the handle attaching near the ends of the blade cartridge, but does not teach a blade configuration that alternately can be adjusted from convex to concave.

None of the above inventions and patents, taken either singly or in combination, is seen to describe the instant invention as claimed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is a manual wet-shaving device having a V-shaped handle and a flexible blade housing, head, or cartridge.

The surface of the molded handle of the present invention is textured for gripping. The handle includes two rigid elongate arms connected in a flexible V-shape with the vertex

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being oriented at the bottom of the handle. In use, the bottom of the handle is cradled in the "life-line" crease of one hand.

A flexible, arcuate cross member connects the arms near their midpoint. The cross member acts as a finger rest where the user can apply gentle pressure while shaving.

At a point near the top of the handle, the arms bend forward to hold the blade housing clear from the grip portion of the handle. A post section of a ball-and-socket joint projects from the upper end of each arm.

Sockets near each end of the blade housing accept the ball portion of the handle arms. The resulting pivotal connections allow the flexible blade housing to bow when shaving convex and concave areas of the body, as well as to tilt in relation to the handle.

In its preferred embodiment, the elongate blade housing holds, but is not limited to, two blades substantially perpendicular to the axis of the V-shaped handle and substantially parallel to the line formed by the upper ends of the handle arms.

Additionally, the face of the blade housing has strips and spots of lubricating gel on surfaces that are drawn across the skin during shaving. Also, a textured finger grip is molded

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into the surface near each end of the blade housing opposite the cutting edges. The user can apply gentle pressure to either or both finger grips on the blade housing to help shape the curve of the blades to the body part being shaved, or to apply variable pressure across areas where hair density varies.

With gentle downward pressure on the handles, the flexible housing will bow over convex body surfaces such as the scalp and shins. With gentle pressure on the center of the flexible housing, the blade will bow to shave concave areas of the body, such as the armpits.

Accordingly, it is a principal object of the invention to provide a novel shaving system that provides the user with fingertip control of the bow of a flexible razor head, housing, or cartridge while in use so that it will conform to and cleanly shave scalps, shins, armpits, and other concave and convex body parts.

It is another object of the invention to provide a flexible razor head, housing, or cartridge, which tilts while in use so that it will cleanly shave the face and other body parts.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a V-shaped razor which allows the user to vary the pressure on selected portions of the blades as they are drawn across the

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surface of skin being shaved to accommodate variables, such as hair density.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a V-shaped razor which increases the user's comfort and efficiency by requiring fewer strokes to shave difficult and sensitive areas.

It is an object of the invention to provide improved elements and arrangements thereof in an apparatus for the purposes described which is inexpensive, dependable and fully effective in accomplishing its intended purposes.

These and other objects of the present invention will become readily apparent upon further review of the following specification and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. **1** is a perspective view of a V-shaped razor with a flexible blade according to the present invention.

Fig. **2** is a fragmented, exploded side view of the ball-and-socket connection of a handle arm with the blade housing in the V-shaped razor according to the present invention.

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Fig. **3** is a plan view of the back of the blade housing of the V-shaped razor according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

As seen in Fig. **1** the present invention is a manual wet-shaving device having a V-shaped handle **10** and a flexible blade housing **20**.

Two rigid rod-like arms **12** of a predetermined length, width, and height connect at one end to form the bottom of the V-shaped handle **10**. The two arms **12** may be pivotally connected to each other by a mechanical pivot joint, or by a web of plastic material having sufficient flexibility to allow the arms **12** to pivot may join the arms. A slender, flexible, arcuate cross member **14** bows toward the user's hand between the arms **12**, connecting with the arms **12**. There is a bend **16** near the distal end of each arm **12** where it rises at an obtuse angle from the axis of its elongate straight portion to keep the user's hand clear of the surface being shaved.

The blade housing **20** holds one or more elongate blades **22** substantially perpendicular to axis **X** of the V-shaped handle. The cutting edges of the blades **22** project from the housing in

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parallel planes and at an acute angle to the plane shared by the axes of the handle arms **12**. The face of the blade housing has strips and spots of lubricating gel **24** on surfaces that contact the skin during shaving.

Referring to Figs. **2** and **3**, the ball **18** of a ball-and-socket joint projects from the distal end of each handle arm **12**. Each ball **18** locks into a concave spherical socket **26** near an end of the elongate blade housing **20**, forming a pivotal connection. The pivotal connection allows the blade housing **20** to tilt within set limits, and, referring to Fig. **1**, to bow in convex configurations **30** and concave configurations **32**.

As shown in Figs. **1** and **3**, sections of the surface of handle arms **12**, cross member **14**, and blade housing back **28** are textured for gripping. The user can shape the blade during shaving by applying fingertip pressure to handle arm **12**, arcuate cross member **14**, either end of the blade housing **28**, or any combination thereof.

It is to be understood that the present invention is not limited to the sole embodiment described above, but encompasses any and all embodiments within the scope of the following claims.

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